

Fort Wingate Land Transfer

I. Introduction

Fort Wingate Depot Activity (FWDA) closed in January 1991.

Federal to Federal Transfer – Department of Defense (DOD) to
Department of Interior (DOI)

DOI to Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Area Office and the
Albuquerque Area Office working together for the benefit of the
Navajo Nation and the Pueblo of Zuni

Both tribes have a MOU to work together on the transfer of the
property for the beneficial use of both Indian Nations

A. Location – map

B. Size:

21,812 Acres (34 square miles)

800 Acres – Administration

8,110 Acres – Ammunition Storage – (747 Igloos)

5,602 Acres – Buffer zone

1,100 Acres – Demolition area

6,200 Acres – Woodlands/Forest Area

- DOD Retaining – 13,600 Acres for Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO)

- DOD – Army Retaining – 1,300 Acres - OBOD Area, heavily contaminated area

- Transfer Amount is 7,200 Acres for BIA/Tribal Usage

Over 20 miles of Railroad tracks

Over 70 miles of Paved Roads

Over 80 miles of Dirt/Gravel Roads

Over 50 miles of Internal Telephone Wire

signings and distribution point for rations to the Navajo, served as a mail station during the Civil War

- B. Fort Lyon – 1861 changed name – inactive
- C. 1868 after the return of the Navajo from Bosque Redondo – reactivated Fort Lyon “to attempt to maintain control over the Navajos returning to their reservation”
- D. 1880’s served as a peacekeeper function

4. Department of Army

- A. Fort Wingate – 1918 – Ordinance Depot – storage facility and repacking & shipping of explosives began
- B. 1930’s held approximately 23,00 tons of explosives
- C. 1940 held 7,500 tons of stored & ready-to-use explosives – first shipment to Britain & France at the beginning of WWII
- D. End of WWII brought a lull to the depot
- E. 1988 BRAC legislation
- F. 1991 closing of FWDA

II. Cultural Impact Issues

- Over 800 cultural sites (600 AC sites & 200 ruins) were identified in a Cultural Resource Inventory of FWDA by the Corps of Engineers
- MOA between Army, Department of Interior, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, New Mexico Historic

C. History – both tribes have reverence for the land

1. Navajo Nation – aboriginal lands, FWDA is within the four sacred mountains outlining the boundaries of Navajo lands

Hunting, grazing, farming, plant gathering. Very mobile people

After the 1868 Treaty with the United States and their imprisonment at Bosque Redondo, the Navajos returned to their former areas and around Fort Wingate.

Fort Wingate or Bear Springs was a very important water source in the Wingate Valley – traditional use area

During WWII, Navajos living on the present FWDA were forced to move and leave their homes – leaving homesteads, hogans, buried humans remains, funerary items and cultural items.

Scared places – Anasazi ruins at FWDA. Shrines for the Holy People – thus significance for the Navajo people

2. Zuni – intermittent use of lands for religious sites, plant gathering and hunting.

Sacred significance to buttes, mesas, trails, ruins & lakes.

FWDA is historically trade area with Navajos & Spanish as well as scared trails

3. Department of War

A. Fort Fauntleroy – 1850's – Strategic military location for the Army during the Navajo Wars – served as a supply point for military wagons headed to Fort Defiance and other forts in the new West

Also a Fort to protect travelers to California from "the local Indians" & the site of two treaty

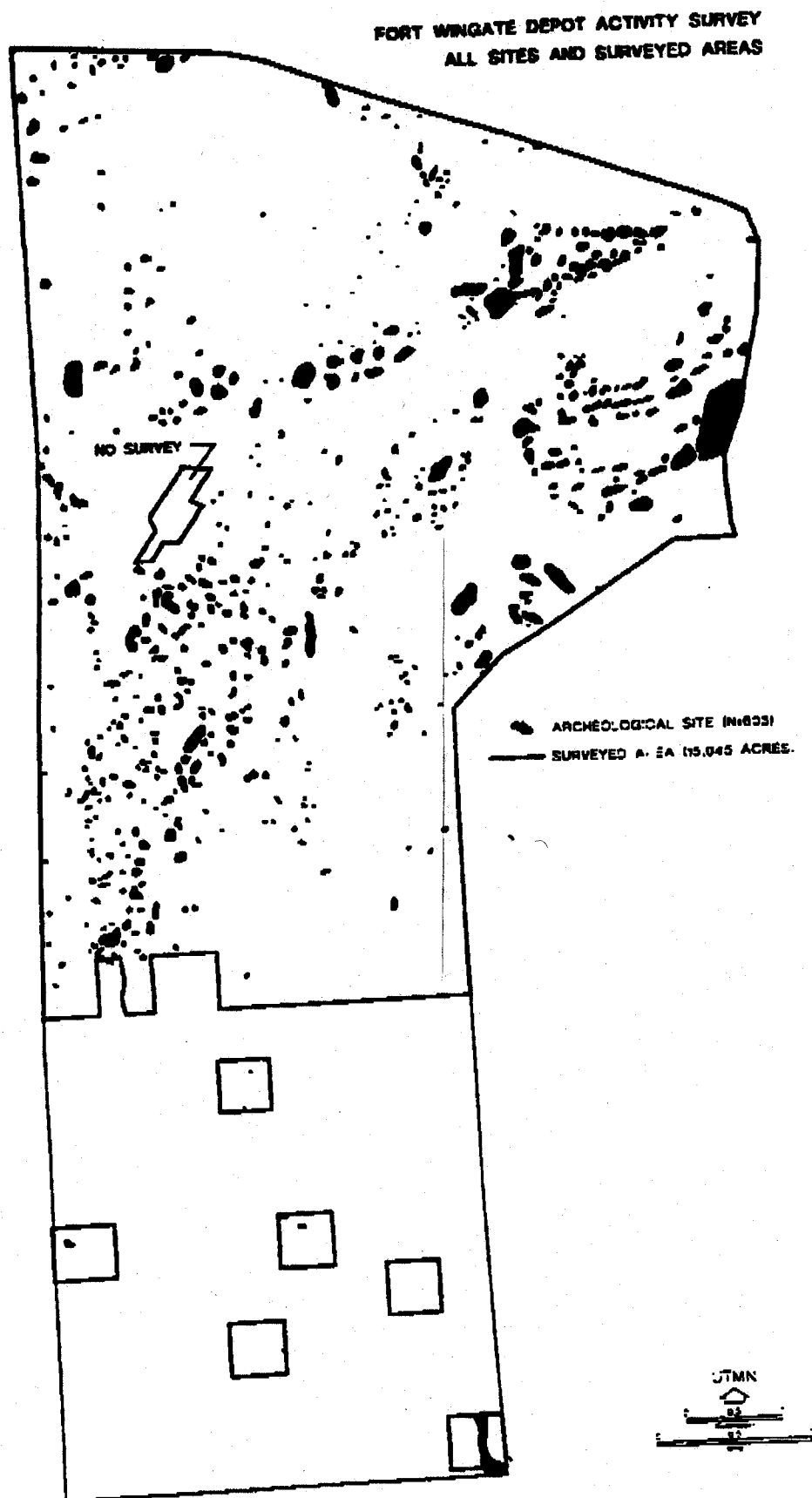
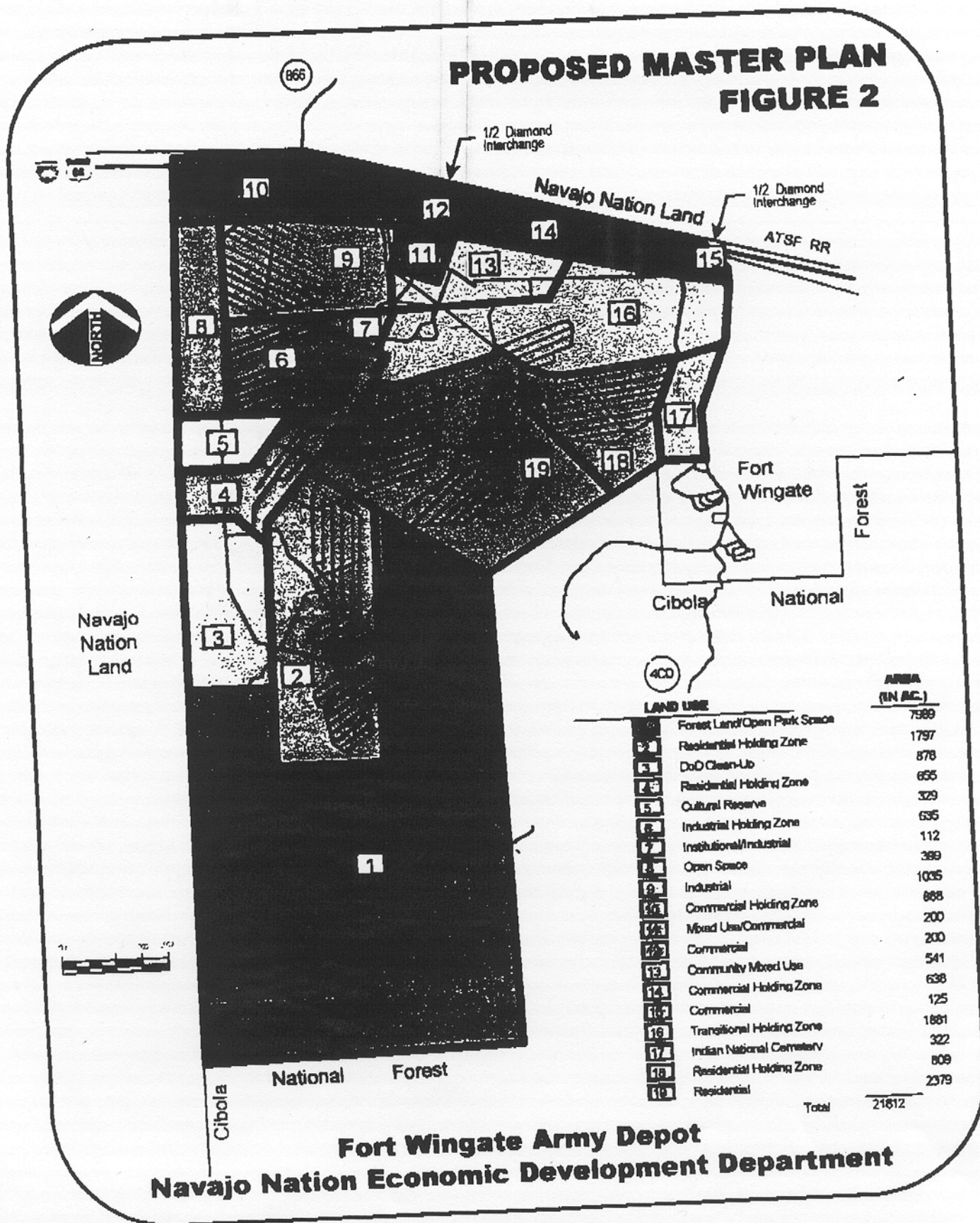


Figure 3. Fort Wingate Depot Activity all sites and surveyed areas.

PROPOSED MASTER PLAN FIGURE 2



Fort Wingate Army Depot
Navajo Nation Economic Development Department

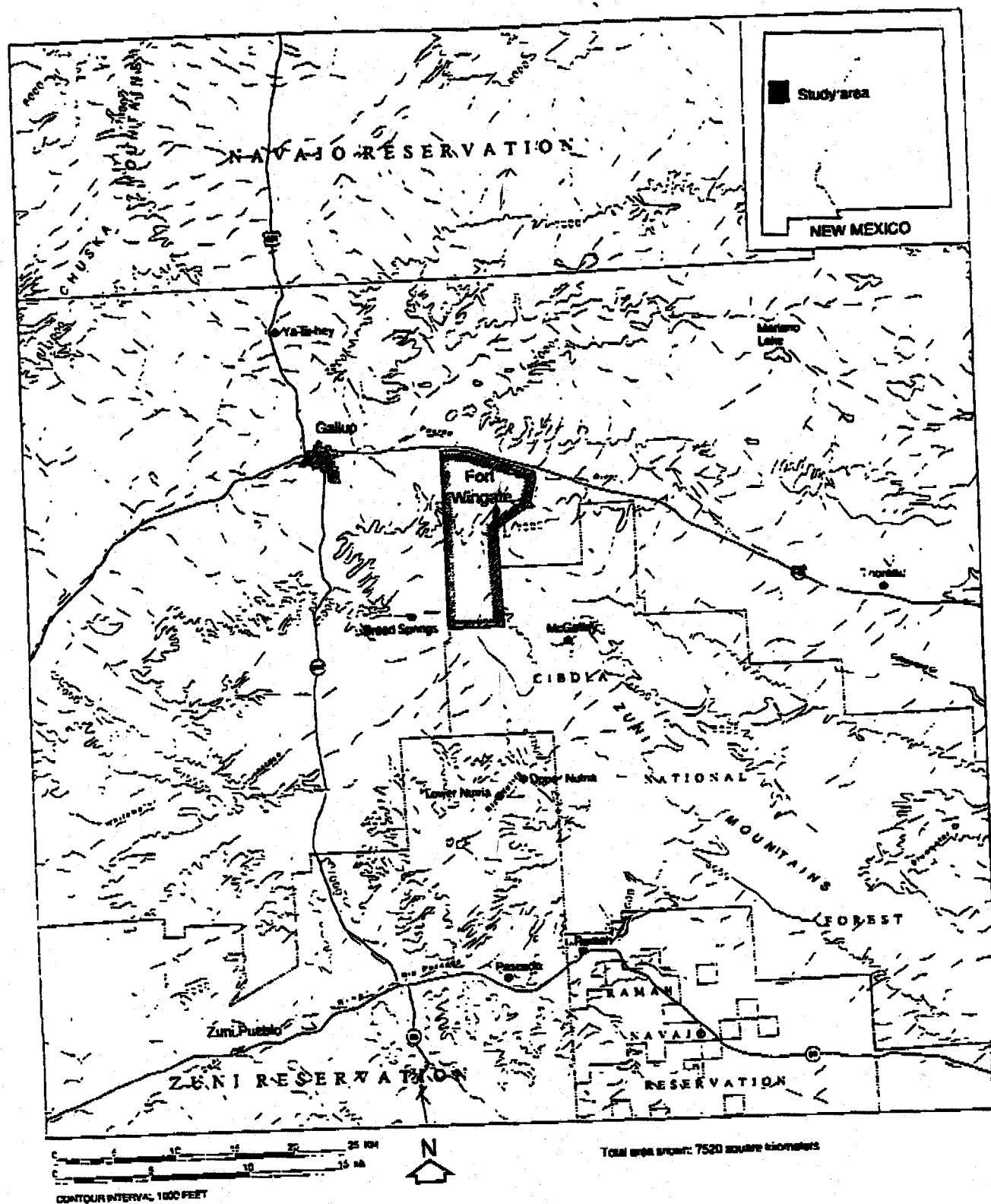


Figure 1. Location of Fort Wingate Depot Activity in New Mexico.